Flights cancelled due to fog

1863. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether flights from Delhi Airport are disrupted every year during the winter season though the airport is equipped with advanced CAT-III instrument;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of flights cancelled during the months of December, January, 2007 and February, 2008; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the situation at the Delhi Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) It has not been possible to fully utilise the CAT IIII B Instrument Landing System at IGI Airport, Delhi mainly due to non-availability of sufficient number of trained and qualified pilots with the airlines to operate flights under the permissible visibility conditions.

(c) Information is being collected.

(d) Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) is constructing 3rd runway at IGI airport with the facility of CAT III B ILS at both ends. DIAL has also increased the number of CAT III aircraft parking bays from 28 to 55.

Furthermore, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in conjunction with the airport operator has issued directions to airlines aimed at improving further operations during fog. This includes mandating CAT III certified pilots to be positioned at IGI airport during expected fog period.

The airlines are also encouraged to upgrade their aeroplanes and train their pilots for operations in low visibility conditions. Their flight schedules through Delhi are approved on the basis of number of pilots trained by the operators for low visibility operations and the suitability of the planes for such operations. Operators who cannot provide data about their capability to fly under low visibility, are not allowed to schedule their flights through Delhi Airport during the fog period.

Smooth movement of passengers at Delhi Airport

1864. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi accounted for the highest growth in air passenger movement in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check the smooth movement in Delhi Airport especially keeping in view the Commonwealth Games 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.